



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,517	03/04/2002	Bradley Steven Resch	8866	6459

27752 7590 06/03/2005

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER

WANG, SHENGJUN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAILED
JUN 03 2005
GROUP 1600

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/090,517
Filing Date: March 04, 2002
Appellant(s): RESCH ET AL.

Juliet A. Jones
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed March 16, 2005.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

48

Art Unit: 1617

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

The brief does not contain a statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief. Therefore, it is presumed that there are none. The Board, however, may exercise its discretion to require an explicit statement as to the existence of any related appeals and interferences.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

The rejection of claims 1-12, 14-24, 26 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reasons in support thereof. See 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

The following is a listing of the prior art of record relied upon in the rejection of claims under appeal.

US Patent 6,024,941	Yanagida et al.	February 15, 2000
US Patent 5,939,082	Oblong et al.	August 17, 1999
US Patent 5,821,237	Bissett et al.	October 13, 1998

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-12, 14-24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagida et al. (US 6,024,941), in view of Oblong et al. (US 5,939,082) and Bissett et al. (US 5,821,237).

These rejections are fully set forth in prior office action mailed September 3, 2004 and reiterated in full below.

(11) Response to Argument

Claims 1-12, 14-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagida et al. (US 6,024,941), in view of Oblong et al. (US 5,939,082) and Bissett et al. (US 5,821,237).

1. Yanagida et al. teaches stable cosmetic compositions wherein vitamin A is stabilized by one stabilizer wherein the stabilizer is selected from a groups of compounds including phenols, vitamin E, C, salicylic acid. The compositions may further comprise EDTA, and other well-known cosmetic ingredients, such as vitamin E, glycerine, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene

Art Unit: 1617

glycol, fatty acid, and perfume. See, particularly, the abstract, table 1, 6-2; examples 2-5, 3-7, 4-4, 4-7, 5-4, and the claims.

2. Yanagida et al. do not teach expressly to exclude parahydroxybenzoic acid ester, or formaldehyde and formaldehyde donating compounds, or employ particular vitamin A derivatives herein, such as retinyl propionate, or employ particular preservative, such as O-phenylphenol.

3. However, as shows in the claims and the examples, Yanagida et al. do not require the present of parahydroxybenzoic acid ester, or formaldehyde, or its donating compounds. Oblong teaches that synthetic or natural vitamin analog, such as retinol esters, e.g., retinyl propionate, are well known in the art for use as vitamin A in cosmetic compositions. See, particularly, column 22, lines 26-52. Bissett et al. teaches that the preservatives herein employed, such as O-phenylphenol, dehydroacetic acid, are well-known preservatives for cosmetic compositions, particularly, those comprise vitamin A. Bisset further teaches that substantially free of formaldehyde or formaldehyde donating compound is essential for the stability of cosmetic composition. See, particularly, column 15, line 1 to column 16, lines 16.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to make a vitamin A containing cosmetic composition without using parahydroxybenzoic acid ester and formaldehyde donating compounds, and employ O-phenylphenol as a preservative and retinyl propionate as vitamin A compound.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make a vitamin A containing cosmetic composition without using parahydroxybenzoic acid ester and formaldehyde donating

Art Unit: 1617

compounds, and employ O-phenylphenol as a preservative and retinyl propionate as vitamin A compound because parahydroxybenzoic acid ester is not required in the vitamin a containing cosmetic composition, and formaldehyde is known to destabilize cosmetic composition. Further, use a preservative in a cosmetic composition, particularly well-known preservative, is obvious because of its known utility. The employment of a particular retinoid, e.g., retinyl propionate, is seen to be a selection from amongst equally suitable material and as such obvious. Ex parte Winters 11 USPQ 2nd 1387 (at 1388).

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the teaching, suggestion and motivation are found both in the cited references and the general knowledge in the art. Particularly, nowhere does Yanagida teach the requirements of the presence of parahydroxybenzoic acid esters, and Bissett et al. teaches that the preservatives herein employed, such as O-phenylphenol, dehydroacetic acid, are well-known

Art Unit: 1617

preservatives for cosmetic compositions, particularly, those comprise vitamin A. Bisset further teaches that substantially free of formaldehyde or formaldehyde donating compound is essential for the stability of cosmetic composition. Therefore, taking the cited references as a whole, the claimed invention, which employ an old and well-known preservative and not employ parahydroxybenzoic acid ester and aldehyde compounds, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants contend that the claimed invention is not obvious over Yanagida et al. in view of Oblong et al. and Bisset et al. because “none of the cited references recognize or suggest the potential problem of retinoid degradation over time if used in composition containing parahydroxybenzoic acid esters. Further, appellants contend that Yanagida, Oblong, and Bisset et al. all teach away from applicants’ invention because all exemplify the use of parahydroxybenzoic acid esters. The examiner disagrees. The instant claims are directed to a composition cosmetic comprising any of the well-known preservatives, but parahydroxybenzoic acid. The discovery of a particular function, i.e., those preservative would not degrade vitamin A would not impart patentable to otherwise obvious utility or composition. It is well settled patent law that mode of action elucidation does not impart patentable moment to otherwise old and obvious subject matter. See *In re Swinehart*, (169 USPQ 226 at 229). Further, question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not merely what reference expressly teach, but what they would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made; all disclosures of prior art, including unpreferred embodiments, must considered. *In re Lamberti and Konort* (CCPA), 192 USPQ 278. Not being exemplified does not constitute a teach away. Therefore, employ of o-

Art Unit: 1617

phenylphenol would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly, considering the cited prior art as a whole.

In response to applicant's argument that no of the cited references teach that excluding parahydroxylbenzoic acid esters, formaldehyde and formaldehyde donating compounds improves retinoid stability, the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

Appellants' arguments that "there is no reasonable expectation of success" deems unpersuasive. The cited references teach vitamin a containing cosmetic composition comprising stabilizer and preservatives. The compositions as suggested by the cited prior art would have been reasonably expected to be stable.

Appellants further contend that the cited references fails to teach or suggest all the claimed limitation. The examiner disagrees. As stated above, the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Art Unit: 1617

Respectfully submitted,

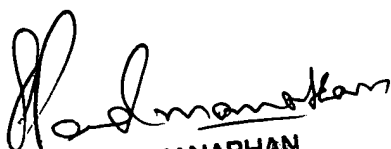
SHENGJUN WANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Shengjun Wang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1617

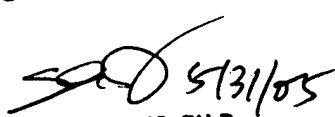
May 27, 2005

Conferees
Sreeni Padmanabhan

ShaoJia Jiang

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45224


SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER


SHAOJIA A. JIANG, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER